



HANNAH'S ADVENTURES IN MISSIONS

Abbreviated Update

- Arrived in Honduras May 24
- Left for Antigua, Guatemala May 29
- Spanish school in Antigua May 30 - June 16
- Week in Honduras shadowing DESEO June 18-25
- Back to Antigua for three more weeks of Spanish school June 26!

We're here!!!!

May 24, we officially arrived in Honduras. The first few days, Hannah and I got settled into the AIM girl house, where we'll be living with two other girls our age. We had a few **orientation** meetings with the Waldrons (the founders of Mission Upreach), past and current AIMers, and Mike and Kris Bridges (who the boys will be working with in Corquin). These meetings were very helpful for us to get a clear sense of our role here as volunteers and apprentices, about how seriously we need to take the rules, and how deeply our leaders respect the Hondurans we are working with and serving. One thing we talked about that was helpful for me was the importance of teaching children about the truth. This conversation directly affects Hannah Ruth and I because we will be working with DESEO, which I will describe more fully later.

So far I've spent three weeks at **language school in Antigua, Guatemala**, and we're leaving in the morning for three more weeks. So far our road trips to and from Antigua have happened at 3 AM, so tomorrow's kind of weird since we're not leaving til 10 AM! Language school is wonderful, you spend 7 hours a day one on one with a teacher for a week and then you get a new teacher. I requested my first teacher, Oscar for a second week so that I could make quick progress with reviewing all the Spanish I learned in high school. When you change teachers they generally have a bit of a different game plan and the first day is spent for them to assess your Spanish ability, so I wanted to spend the

first two weeks with just one teacher in order to get through the review I truly needed. By the third week I was learning new grammar, and I'll have a new teacher again starting Tuesday. The **best part about language school** isn't learning spanish, it's the opportunity to talk to people about Jesus who may or may not believe in his Lordship. Most people in Antigua say they are catholic, although not a lot of them take it very seriously. My teacher Oscar is a very devout catholic, and I so enjoyed talking to him about the bible and Jesus. I respect him a lot and I hope we have a chance to talk more in the future. Spending an entire week with one person doing nothing but talking for seven hours a day is an amazing opportunity to represent the love of Christ and the joy of the gospel, please **pray** for my team as we are there to be good stewards of that opportunity.

Our week "break" from Spanish school was spent here in Santa Rosa shadowing the DESEO team. Mission Upreach has many different ministries that all ultimately work towards the goal of growing the kingdom by planting churches. **DESEO** was born out of a desire to affect the future culture of this country by teaching children about the love of God and how He wants us to treat other people. This team goes to 15 schools a week for a year straight, teaching classes about concepts like sharing, the value of studying, hygiene, respect, kindness, humility, and objectivity. In the afternoons they do homework tutoring, a basketball league for the kids, and a children's choir. I am so excited to get back from language school and find ways to help out the DESEO team so that they can more effectively focus on the kids without having to think about things like setting up the basketball goals or cutting up the construction paper for their curriculum. And hopefully with my Spanish improving over time I can start participating in the Bible skits or teaching a few things in the classroom. I love the time we spend at the schools, from the unique greetings we receive at every school to the kids learning a little bit of sign language every week, the younger kids hugging us goodbye, the quality lessons the team teach. I was impressed that at every school, the lesson was essentially the same, but delivered with a different teaching style based on the needs at that school. Please **pray** that the seeds sown in these schools would fall on rich soil and bear fruit years down the road. There has already been fruit from this ministry, with several families that I know of becoming part of the church because they wanted to know about what their kids were learning in class.

In conclusion, it's been an amazing first month in Central America, and I want to **thank you** so much for the support you've given (financial, emotional, and prayer) that has enabled me to be here, and empowers the work here to continue. God is certainly at work, and I feel deeply privileged to be allowed to not only witness Him but be a coworker in His service. (1 Corinthians 3:9.) I would ask for your prayers as I need to develop discipline in personal reading and prayer, and pray that I would not burn out on trying to learn not only spanish but also a new culture. Thank you again, with much love,

Hannah Baker



My teacher Oscar is a talented photographer so one day he wanted to take pictures of Hannah Ruth and I. We had fun and loved the results!



There is a pretty easy hike up to a good view of Antigua, called Cierro de la Cruz because there's a big cross statue. I opened my newsletter with Donnie's whole face showing so here's Kenan's whole face.



This is what the school looks like!
Our first Friday we played scrabble in
Spanish with our teachers.



We hiked Volcan de Picaya on a free Saturday.

We roasted our subs over a hot spot in the lava.





There was a festival in Antigua for Corpus Christi and there was a super cool fruit market just that day in Central Park!



A bullying prevention specialist came and had a seminar for the DESEO team.

